

apricot Portable (Fp)
Technical Reference

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Preface

The Technical Reference Manual for the ACT Apricot Portable microcomputer is intended for programmers and engineers involved in hardware and software design for the Portable.

The Manual is divided into three sections and a number of appendices as detailed below.

1. Overview

This section provides an overall description of the Portable and is sub-divided into three chapters:

System Overview

This chapter presents an overall picture of the Portable concentrating on mainly the hardware, but also including information on some of the software aspects which are integral to the machines' operation.

Software

This chapter provides a brief description of the operating system and its interface to the associated BIOS. An introduction to the software modules of the BIOS is also provided.

Options

This chapter forms the introduction to all the other ACT hardware options available for extending the capabilities of any machine within the range.

2. Hardware Detail

This section contains detailed descriptions of all the hardware aspects of the microcomputer and is divided into a number of chapters, as detailed in the following *Contents* section.

The Systems Unit and the Keyboard of the Portable are discussed in detail with major programmable elements (e.g. serial port, display circuitry, etc.) also having separate descriptions.

3. Software Detail

This section contains a detailed description of all software aspects of the BIOS and is also divided into a number of chapters. The first provides a detailed description of the BIOS as a whole. Subsequent chapters detail the features and facilities of the individual hardware device drivers.

Appendices

A number of appendices are included in this manual which provide general hardware reference information and also associated software information of specific use to systems/application programmers.

Addenda

This section details installable device drivers supplied as system software and will also be expanded to reflect updates and changes as the product continues to be developed.

Associated Publications

MICROSOFT MS-DOS Programmer's Reference Guide

This is an absolute necessity for anybody who wants to develop software for the Apricot. It provides details of:

1. MS-DOS 2.00 system calls and interrupts.
2. How to produce and install new device drivers.
3. MS-DOS memory maps, disk layout, DOS initialisation and many more technical details.

The UK source of this product is:

Order Processing Dept
Microsoft Ltd, Piper House
Hatch Lane, Windsor, BERKS.

DIGITAL RESEARCH GSX-86 Graphics Extension Programmer's Guide

This is a necessity for any programmer who wishes to produce graphics based packages interfacing to Apricot's implementation of the Digital Research GSX module. This product can be obtained through your local dealer/distributor.

The 8086 Family User's Manual

This provides descriptive material on the Intel 8086 processor and includes all the necessary details on the instruction sets for assembly language programmers. The manual can be obtained from an Intel distributor.



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